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August 25, 1999 0828 '99 SEP -3 AM 11:17

Dockets Management Branch
(HFA-305) Food & Drug Admin.
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Docket Numbers 98N-1230; 96:-0418; 97P-0197.

That the U.S. Egg industry forces the molting of hens which entails their being starved for up to 14 days is the most horrendous, brutish act I have ever heard of. This procedure involves millions of hens, not just a few.

There are multiple reasons to discontinue this inhumane process: (1) Molting is the primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs and those who eat eggs, (2) the FDA must put bacteria warning labels on egg cartons, (3) the FDA must ban forced molting on farms because it promotes disease and threatens shut down of hens' immune systems.

The FDA was petitioned in 1998 to ban forced molting. This petition should be granted without delay.

Respectively submitted,


Ms. Gayle Harris Birk

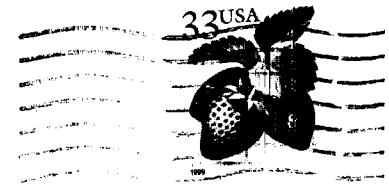
Thank you!

98N 1230

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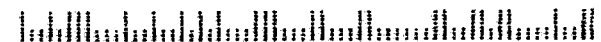
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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/ *CY38*

See File Number:

97P-0197/ *CY39*

96P-0418/ *CY38*